



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26.53 Thursday, December 31, 2020 **Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren** **F R E E**

Planning commission, city council approve new marijuana zoning

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a one-hour-and-six-minute joint Zoom meeting on Monday, the Belleville Planning Commission and Belleville City Council both voted unanimously to approve amendments to the city zoning ordinance pertaining to marijuana establishments as presented.

They approved:

- Article 2, to add definitions for marijuana facilities;
- Article 3, to create a new zoning overlay district and I-2b adding specific facilities to the overlay district;
- Article 4, to add specific standards for permitted marijuana facilities; and
- Article 5, to provide parking standards for marijuana facilities.

The amendments were prepared by planning consultant Jill Bahm of Giffels / Webster, who explained them at the joint meeting.

Planning Commission Chairman Steve Jones pointed out this was the ordinance approved at the last planning commission meeting Dec. 10.

There was considerable discussion on an existing business on Savage Road that was within the overlay district south of the railroad track.

Bahm said if the business had its primary entrance facing west toward the city's DPW yard and not toward the front and away from Victoria Commons, it would qualify as a marijuana facility. This included a six-foot wall and a six-foot-tall row of bushes as buffer.

Planning Commissioner Michael Renaud asked if the wall and bushes weren't redundant.

Bahm said that was to make it look more nature, "So it doesn't look as harsh."

Commissioner Renaud said when they put up the structure, do the bushes have to

(continued on page 13)



Independent photo by James Otzman

The East Huron River Drive bridge over the Huron River opened to traffic on Dec. 22. Wayne County supervisors said phase one has been completed and phase two will be finished next year. The pedestrian walkway on the north side of the bridge needs to be completed as well as painting the pillars under the bridge and doing the landscaping. The bridge had been closed for repairs since Sept. 15.

VBT OKs mailing masks to every township resident

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Every resident in Van Buren Township will receive a protective face mask by mail or otherwise, following action taken by the township board at its Dec. 15 Zoom meeting.

Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara had presented an agenda item to approve hazard pay-outs of \$500 each to all township employees and \$1,500 each for members of the public safety department, at a total cost of \$270,000.

Supervisor McNamara said the proposal

was presented by the three full-time elected officials: him, Treasurer Sharry Budd and Clerk Leon Wright.

He said the township wishes to recognize the essential employees that have worked the frontlines during the pandemic.

McNamara said 30% of the police force has had COVID, along with others in dispatch, fire department, and in the township hall.

"We've come out very well with grants and we can afford it," he said.

"It's terribly alarming to hear so much of the staff was affected by COVID," said Trustee Reggie Miller. She asked if those in the parks and recreation department who were furloughed would get the pay-out and McNamara said they would. He said everyone who works for the township would get it. He said there are a couple

of new employees that came in October and November and he said their pay-outs would be pro-rated.

At the meeting, McNamara also asked for an additional \$10,000 to cover mailing out masks to all the residents in the township.

He explained that the previous week, the City of Dearborn announced it would be sending masks by mail to all of its 100,000 residents, so McNamara had his staff look into it.

His executive assistant Dan Selman reported that Wayne County had masks and brought 5,000 to the township. McNamara said they found Wayne County has a warehouse and township representatives "ran down there with a couple of pickup trucks."

He said they told county workers that

(continued on page 8)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Twp. holds first Zoom meeting for special session

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees held its first-ever Zoom meeting on Dec. 15 and passed 17 motions, with 10 having one or more no votes.

The most controversial motion was to reduce the deputy supervisor position, most recently held full-time by Karen Armatis, to a position less than 20 hours a week with the yearly pay of \$8,406 and no benefits of any kind.

The vote was 5-2 with Supervisor Tim Bowman and Trustee Peggy Morgan voting no.

Supervisor Bowman had appointed former Treasurer Ken Bednark as his deputy supervisor and Bednark has been sworn in.

Trustee Morgan asked if the board was doing this because of who the deputy supervisor was. She said she saw no justification for this and it was "ridiculous."

She said Supervisor Bowman has a full-time job, as many supervisors in the past have had, and, "This is about the person and not the position." She said this is ridiculous pay and they are not allowing him to work the way they've always allowed deputy supervisors to work.

"Very selfish," she said, adding it was not for the benefit of the community.

Trustee Don LaPorte said he was in support of the half-time deputy supervisor and never was in support of a full-time deputy supervisor.

As to the pay, it's the same as an elected trustee is paid and, "nothing to sneeze at," he said.

Trustee Morgan referred to an email LaPorte had sent out about no benefits for the deputy supervisor. She said attorney Rob Young had crafted it so deputies get the same benefits as the union workers were able to get.

"It's not about the deputy position, but who it is," Trustee Morgan insisted, referring to Bednark who was very outspoken as a board member.

Trustee Morgan said the former deputy supervisor, Karen Armatis, was paid \$32 an hour.

"Our supervisor is going to need this deputy," Trustee Morgan said. "You are a short-changing the supervisor. He has a full-time job as others had in the past."

She asked the board to table this item and take a good look at the proposal.

She suggested they give Bednark the same wage as Toni Clark with benefits if he needs it. She said they should let him get the benefits the union people receive and let him work the hours the supervisor needs him to and have the supervisor sign the hours to submit to payroll.

Supervisor Bowman then read a statement saying he is new to this position and he's requesting a deputy who can assist him and he needs a full-time deputy with normal pay and benefits for this position.

The motion for a part-time deputy supervisor was made by Trustee LaPorte and seconded by Trustee Tim Rush and passed 5-2.

In other business at the one-hour-and-37-minute virtual meeting the board:

- Passed, on a 6-1 vote, approval of the 2021 board meeting schedule with both the workshop and the board meetings scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., so the business could go on without waiting for the regular meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m., as in the past. Voting no was Trustee Peggy Morgan, who wanted to keep the old schedule of a 6 p.m. workshop, then a break, and then the 6:30 p.m. board meeting;

- Passed, on a 5-2 vote, approval for the deputy clerk position to be full time at 40 hours a week with overtime as approved by the township clerk with pay of \$25.08 hourly, with annual increases approved by the board and benefits equal to AFSME employees, but no medical reimbursement. Voting no were Supervisor Bowman and Trustee Morgan;

- Passed on a 5-2 vote, approval of a pay raise for Deputy Clerk Anthony Burdick from \$25.08 to \$27.08 to correct the scheduled increases that were missed since his appointment in May 2018. There is no back pay on this, said Clerk Esther Hurst. Voting no were Supervisor Bowman and Trustee Morgan;

- Passed, on a 6-1 vote, the position of deputy treasurer to be full time, allocating 40 hours a week with overtime as approved by the treasurer with pay of \$25.08 per hour with annual increases as approved by the board and benefits equal to AFSME employees, except no medical reimbursement. Voting no was Trustee Morgan;

- Approved unanimously the opening of the treasurer's office for the residents to pay their taxes at the township hall on Thursday, Dec. 31, extending regular office hours until 7:30 p.m.

- Approved unanimously the cancellation of all township credit cards with the exception of the supervisor, clerk, treasurer, police chief, and fire chief in compliance with the township credit card policy. Trustee Morgan asked who else had credit cards and there was no answer. Clerk Esther Hurst said all credit cards are cancelled and new ones are issued for the new administration;

- Unanimously approved all outstanding warrants to a date of Dec. 31 and close of business;

- Unanimously approved changing the supervision of the water department clerk from the finance director to the treasurer;

- Unanimously approved freezing all capital expenditures as of Dec. 15. Trustee Matt Oddy, who apparently prepared the agenda item, took off the additional "non-essential expenditures" part of his wording after attorney Young said he didn't know what that meant. Trustee Oddy said he wanted the board to be prudent and not spend capital money until next year. Financial Director Cole added, "We need to step up consciousness about our expenditures ... and the purchasing policy requiring three quotes... Next year we will know better about revenue sharing";

- Passed, on a 6-1, vote reaffirmation that all purchasing, reallocation and/or removal of any township furnishing, equipment, and/or assets must have township board approval prior to the specific purchase, reallocation, or removal. Voting no was Trustee Morgan;

- Passed, on a 4-3 vote, approval to change the locks on the three township doors for security purposes. Voting no were Supervisor Bowman, Treasurer James Clark, and Trustee Morgan. Trustee Morgan said a trustee said he wanted an audit of the keys because the supervisor had given a key to employee Roxanne Bardell, who has had keys in the past. "This became a big deal," Trustee Morgan said, with the trustee claiming a security breach. She said she feels it is a waste of money. She said the last supervisor did not want Bardell to have the key, but this supervisor is taking responsibility. "The police chief is aware she has a key and code," Trustee Morgan said. "Any use would track to her, with Supervisor Bowman taking responsibility... It's ridiculous." Trustee Oddy said Clerk Hurst said it's been eight or nine years since the building was rekeyed. "It's prudent to have an audit ... And have the board set a policy on how the new keys can be distributed." Clerk Hurst said the key was returned to her by Bardell and, "It was a key from the hardware store. She returned what she had." Supervisor Bowman said he didn't know the key was made at the local hardware store. "I understand the security thing ... It's a big thing. I know I gave that key to that person without knowing the recourse... I don't know the politics ... I'm asking you to give me a break on this," he said, saying he didn't know you could give keys to some not others;

- Passed, on a 6-1 vote, reaffirmation that the clerk's office will have sole responsibility to secure and issue all township hall keys and security codes at the direction and approval of the township

board. Voting no was Trustee Morgan;

- Passed on a 6-1 vote the updating of the first sentence in section 6 of the finance director's contract to read: "The employee's duties shall be determined by the township board from time to time and as directed by the township clerk on a daily basis..." "The township supervisor and/or township treasurer shall have supervision of the employee for those matters undertaken by the employee which are statutorily required by law for each office." Voting no was Trustee Morgan, who said she understood the supervisor would like the finance director under his office, as it was with Supervisor John Morgan. "This is undermining our supervisor and how he would like to run his office... It's not let's work together for the residents of Sumpter Township." Supervisor Bowman said he's been in office for less than a month and he doesn't know "who should be here or there ... I need to get my feet wet. I need to learn what's right or wrong ... It's like 360 degrees here, with things coming from every direction ... I was working fine [with the finance director]. We communicate well and I thought we were getting things done." Trustee Morgan said Cole, Scott Holtz and Jim Glahn were all under the supervisor and there was no problem then";

- Passed, on a 5-2 vote, the updating of the first sentence in section 6 of the Human Resource Director's contract to read, "The employee's duties shall be determined by the township board from time to time and as directed by the township clerk on a daily basis..." "The township supervisor and/or township treasurer shall have supervision of the employee for those matters undertaken by the employee which are statutorily required by law for each office." Voting no were Supervisor Bowman and Trustee Morgan;

- Approved unanimously virtual meetings policies and procedures;

- Unanimously approved accepting the Belleville Rotary Club's placement at no cost of a bench outside at the library media center. Trustee Morgan was allowed to add this item to the agenda that had been prepared after Clerk Hurst objected and attorney Young said it could be done if the board approved;

- Unanimously approved prior warrants paid of \$239,031.54 and warrants on hand for payment of \$92,670.57. Trustee Rush pointed out that a \$1,300 laptop now in the supervisor's office was purchased by the treasurer. Finance Director Michelle Cole said it's in the right budget now;

- Heard Trustee Rush read a letter from 34th District Court Judge David Parrott as Judge Parrott's "judicial career ends" after

(continued on page 11)

OPINIONS

Editorial

2021 has got to be better than 2020

Everyone has got to be looking forward to a new beginning on Friday, Jan. 1. The new year of 2021 has to be better than what we all experienced in 2020.

We have hope for an end to the COVID-19 experience with the shots being given to more and more people to keep the virus away. We are warned that masks will still be important and social distancing. But, maybe we won't get infected with COVID-19.

And, the politics, locally and nationally may calm down a bit. Sumpter Township has a new supervisor, treasurer, and trustee, but the power is still there for the previous crew by a 4-3 margin. We'll keep reporting on what happens there to keep you entertained.

On the national level, our new President will be sworn in soon, and it might be Joe Biden. The news swirls around and around, as do the results of court sessions. We've had two psychics contact us saying Donald Trump will serve the next four years. Who knows? We'll keep watch.

We are happy to see that the suspects in the Egypt Covington murder and the suspect in the murder of four young people in Sumpter have been identified and are going through the justice system. If they are found to be guilty and punished it will be a great relief to all. However, it won't take away the pain from those who loved the five so brutally taken from us.

And, Belleville will get some new marijuana facilities to boost the economy. 2021 should be a good year.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

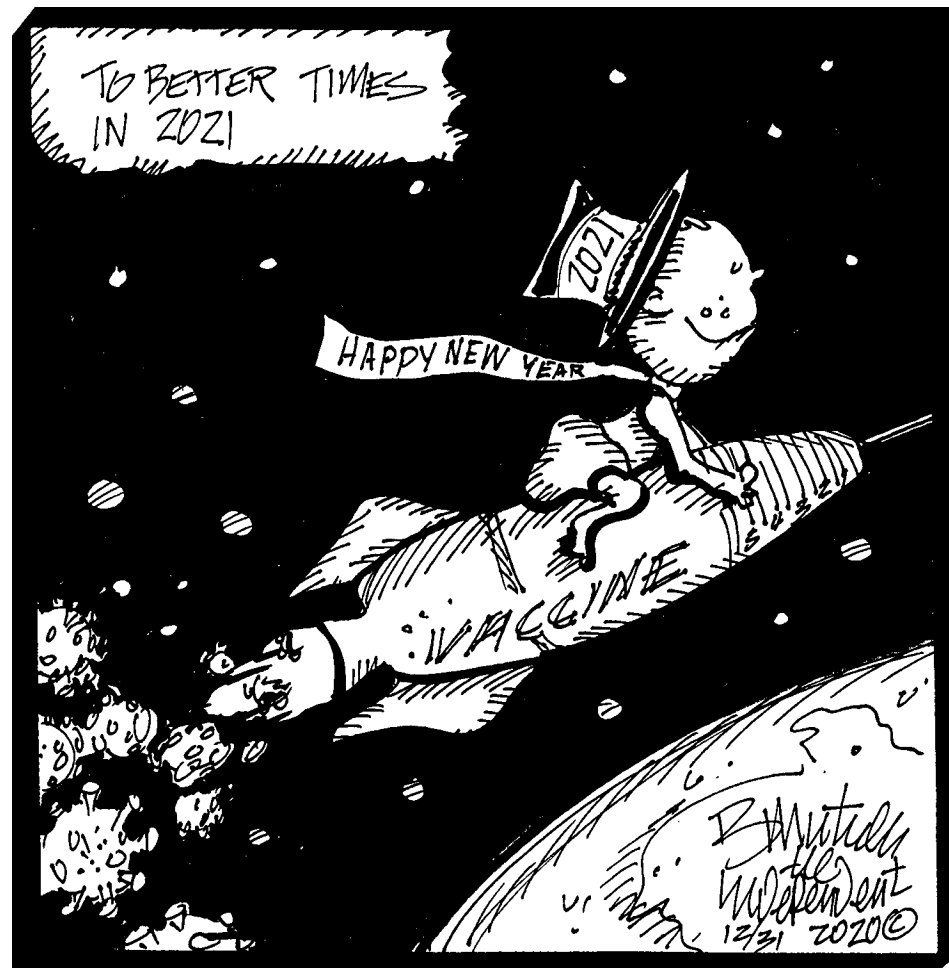
CORRECTION: In this column last week I wrote that former Sumpter Township Trustee Donnie Swinson got a new car to drive for being named Employee of the Year by his fellow employees at Atchinson Ford. But, Donnie informs me the new car he is driving is his new lease, since his former car lease had expired.

Sorry for the mistake, Donnie. I thought your new car had to do with your new honor. Congratulations on your honor, anyway.

One of those in the long line for the Dec. 21 Forgotten Harvest free food giveaway in Van Buren Township said their car was second and they got in line at 3 a.m. The car that was first in line got there at about 1 a.m. The line of those seeking free food for themselves and others reportedly started at the east side of the township hall, extended to Tyler Road and then all the way down Quirk Road to the North I-94 Service Drive. That was the last Pop-Up Pantry for the year, but VBT is looking into hosting more since the need appears to be so great. This was not for VBT residents only, but anyone who needed food.

The owner of 201 W. Columbia Ave., one of the winners in the City of Belleville's Christmas Lighting contest told the city council during a Zoom meeting apologized to the public for buying up all the red LEDs at Walmart. The lights on his house are mostly red.

The 2020 Census is over and will be presented to the President soon. According to its report, the Census counted 99.9% of



the residents, with 67% self-reporting.

In our area, 76.9% residents in the City of Belleville were counted; 73.7% of Van Buren Township residents were counted; 63.8% of Sumpter Township residents were counted; and 71.3% of Michigan residents were counted.

The Van Buren Township Police Department Honor Guard was among those who stood guard as mourners waited in line in the cold Monday to honor the late Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon who died Dec. 17 of COVID-19.

During the open-casket viewing, Napoleon was dressed in his brown Wayne County sheriff's uniform. His blue Detroit Police Department chief's uniform was displayed in a frame near the casket.

The Belleville City Council voted unanimously to send a resolution honoring Chief Napoleon's service at its regular meeting on Dec. 21. The resolution will be given to his family.

At Monday's public hearing on the new amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding marijuana establishments, Belleville City Councilman Tom Fielder announced that the Belleville High School football team playoff game against Cass Tech has been postponed again. This time it is postponed from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. It is still at the BHS football field at 1 p.m.

We've had so many complaints from our mail subscribers because of the length of time it takes for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver our papers. And, it's not just the papers to Florida and Arizona, but those to Canton and Ypsilanti.

Do you think all the money the postal service got in the latest bill passed by the legislature will make delivery better? I sure hope so, but I tend to doubt it.

My son Bill's dog, Bruno, who he got from Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue a couple of years ago, has a problem. Bruno went to his veterinarian for his annual check-up and shots on Monday. He also had a bit of a limp with his back, left leg being bothersome.

After some x-rays, Bruno was diagnosed with a "trick knee" which needed surgery. We Googled it and read all about it and are very sorry Bruno is suffering. He was in pain and didn't – or couldn't – tell us.

Bill is considering the surgery and where to take Bruno since the surgery is not done locally.

Bruno came to us through FMAR after a trip from Texas where he was displaced by a hurricane. It took him a while to settle down, but he did eventually and now he is a beloved member of our family.



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**BELLEVILLE-AREA
INDEPENDENT**

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

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Letters

Thank you to sponsors who donated to children

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks to our sponsors that donated this year to enable the township to obtain gift cards for the children in our community, in lieu of our annual Children's Christmas party. During these challenging times it is especially humbling that we received the support that we did.

Among the benefactors we wish to acknowledge:

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A special thanks to Sumpter Township Fire Department (Chief Januszyk, Platoon Chief Armstrong and Firefighter Colleen Armatis).

Timothy P. Bowman
Sumpter Township Supervisor

2021 will be better year if we seek God's peace

To the editor:

As the new year approaches, many of us are looking forward to a healthier, happier, and more peaceful year.

We American citizens have so much to be thankful for especially when fully understanding and acknowledging the many sacrifices of our founders and present-day patriots. We are living today in a Democracy where many Constitutional and Bill of Rights freedoms reign. Our Constitution is the envy of the world. We have the privilege and right to make decisions which should be based on the law and facts.

Consider a wonderful future we Americans can look forward to IF we as a nation UNdivided, Under God, with Liberty and Justice for all will prayerfully seek God's direction in our lives and lead us to Peace -- HIS peace as found in John 14:27 - (English Standard version).

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

HAPPY NEW (Peaceful) YEAR -- 2021.
God Bless America!

In His name,
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Blecker
Belleville

Emergency Food Closet expands services

To the editor:

Due to the overwhelming generosity from community residents, businesses, and churches, our monetary donations have increased dramatically. Starting Jan. 5, 2021 the Emergency Food Closet housed at the Belleville First United Methodist Church located at 417 Charles St. will be passing out food on a **weekly** basis to all clients. The community's support to feed the hungry is heartwarming and a blessing.

The EFC is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. First-time clients need to bring a current Michigan driver's license or State ID and a property tax receipt, utility bill, or rent receipt to prove residency.

Everyone will receive food on his/her first visit. To continue to receive food, a referral will be needed. This can be obtained through a pastor, school, physician, Community Care Services, or the Salvation Army.

If one has questions, please call the church office at (734) 697-9288.

Marilyn Wood
Emergency Food Closet Coordinator

Thank you to all at the hospital who helped me

To the editor:

I am home from the hospital. This was quite an experience. Room 532. I was blessed to have the quality care I received from the emergency room to the doctors to pastoral care -- all on the fifth floor.

All of them, and my good Father Chris. I told him the next time I come will be to visit. He said stop by and we will have some herbal tea and we can talk.

I sang to the ministers, "How Great Thou Art" and the "Star Spangled Banner" at Tiger Stadium to tell all the world about my cancer. About never give up. You fall down and you get back up.

Thanks be to God.

Charlie Crispell
Sumpter Township



- Jan. 1 -- Judy Jordan
- Jan. 2 -- Robin Michaelson
- Jan. 3 -- Jacqueline Dalzell
- Jan. 4 -- Paul George
- Jan. 6 -- Kim Dybicki

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Service Charges to include Basic Service of Funeral Director and Staff, Embalming, Other Preparation of Body, Visitation at Funeral Home or Other Facility, Funeral Service at Funeral Home or Other Facility, Transfer to Funeral Home 30 mile radius, Hearse and Service Vehicle. Website Obituary and Video Tribute. Other charges may include sales tax, cemetery charges, newspaper notices, and vault company service fee.

Obituaries



Belinda Jennings

BELINDA JENNINGS
(March 2, 1974 – December 21, 2020)
Belinda Jennings, age 46, of Ann Arbor, MI, passed away Monday, December 21, 2020 at her home, surrounded by family, following a long illness. She was born March 2, 1974 in Highland Park, MI, daughter of Blandy & Linda (Thomas) Jennings. She was a member of Belleville High School Class of 1993. She enjoyed working for the Ann Arbor News for several years before medical issues caused her to go on disability. Belinda, commonly known as Buckwheat was a social butterfly who enjoyed cooking, talking on the phone, music, and learning new things. She loved shopping and most of all, her family. She was “Mama” to everyone she met. She loved hard and carried the pain of others. But God said no more pain for her. She can fly as high and spread those wings as wide as she wants and be free. Though she will be missed dearly by so many that she touched.
Belinda is survived by daughter Sha’Liese Jennings, her mother Linda Jennings, two cats Layla and Marie, all of Ann Arbor, MI, her best friends Milea Minor and Tina Tipper, also a host of extended family, friends & her “babies”. She was preceded in death by her father in 1975.
To honor her wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements have been entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to NAAF-National Alopecia Areata Foundation would be appreciated.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

**More Obituaries on
page 6**

Things to do in the Belleville area...

- **Thursday, Jan. 7** – Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., Van Buren Township Hall. Call 1-800-733-2767 to make an appointment.
- **Saturday, Jan. 9** – Belleville High School finals football game against Cass Tech at BHS field, 1 p.m. Postponed from previous Jan. 2 date.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, Jan. 5** – Zoom meetings on plans for the first Belleville Lakefest at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. To register, see Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce at info@bellevilleareachamber.org. Do not have to be member of Chamber to participate, only be a part of the 48111 area. Opportunities to raise funds for non-profits.
- **Monday, Jan. 11** – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.



James Edward Taylor

JAMES EDWARD TAYLOR
(March 29, 1943 – December 15, 2020)
James Edward Taylor, 77, passed away in his home on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. James (Jim) was born on March 29, 1943 to Lloyd and Helen (Norris) Taylor in Kentucky. As a child, he moved to Michigan with his family in 1949. Jim was known to most of family as “Ronnie” while growing up. He was the type of person who was tough on the outside, but gentle on the inside. As a young man he was active, always fixing cars or doing something productive with his hands. He was the general manager at the local Big Boy for 35 years before retiring. During that time he and his wife Robin, who also worked at the restaurant, both were part of the Belleville community.
Jim was preceded in death by his parents, brother Herman, and sister Joyce. He is survived by his wife Robin; his siblings Harry, Janet, Thomas, Guy, Gloria, and Cathy; his 4 children Kelly, Joshua, Brent, and Samantha; his two step-daughters Amanda and Melody; as well as his 3 grandsons Connor, Brittan, and Declan. Cremation services will take place at Fisher Funeral Home and a service is planned to be held by the family at a later date.



Virginia (Koch) Jones

VIRGINIA (KOCH) JONES
(August 6, 1930 – December 27, 2020)
Mrs. Virginia (Koch) Jones, age 90, of Canton, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away peacefully Sunday, December 27, 2020 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Livonia, MI. She was born August 6, 1930 in Detroit, MI, only child of Alvin & Beatrice (Wilkinson) Koch.
Mrs. Jones worked in accounting at Chrysler Corporation for several years, but was forever dedicated to her family. She was a master gardener who also enjoyed sewing and crafts, and cooking for her family.
Virginia is survived by six children: Debby (Steve) Rennells of Belleville, MI, Larry (Cathy) Jones of Boyne City, MI, Wayne (Shelly) Jones of Ann Arbor, MI, Mark (Cyndy) Jones of Ypsilanti Township, MI, Tammy (Bill) Osier of Belleville and Scott (Angie) Jones of Belleville; 17 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren and three more on-the-way. She is also survived by numerous extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 70 years John D. Jones, and grandson Bradley A. Rennells.
Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

VBT

(continued from page 1)

they wanted 40,000 masks. The workers stopped, looked at them, and then gave them 40,000 masks, McNamara said.

He said it will cost \$10,000 for postage, envelopes, and labels to send the masks. He said by Jan. 15, they will mail three masks to every home in Van Buren Township. He said they will also distribute to the apartments and mobile home parks.

McNamara said actually the masks will cost a total of \$17,000 because he needs \$7,000 to put a VBT logo on the masks.

"We are still going after grants, but I can't promise we'll be reimbursed" for the \$7,000, he said.

"Why can't the residents come in and pick up the masks?" asked Trustee Sherry Frazier.

McNamara said it is only costing 30 to 40 cents a mask and, "They are the nicest masks I've ever seen." He said they are double-woven.

Trustee Frazier said she isn't against giving out the masks, but residents could pick them up at no cost.

Trustee Donald Boynton said he doesn't go anywhere and hasn't been to work since March 19. He said he has a sprayer with alcohol that he uses on everything delivered to his home. He wouldn't go pick up the masks and others won't either, he said.

Clerk Leon Wright said, "We want to reach everyone." He said although the township tries to get the word out on things to the public through social media and other ways, "We can't get everyone to know what we're doing."

Clerk Wright said the majority will use and wear masks until 70% of the people get vaccinated. He said this is a good program.

Frazier asked how they are getting the addresses of the residents and McNamara said they were using tax records.

Trustee Miller said masks minimize the risk and she has confidence in Supervisor McNamara to recover the cost.

The board voted unanimously to approve the \$280,000 total, take it from Covid-19 expenses, and amend the 2020 budget, with necessary transfer from the general fund to cover the expenditure.

Miller stated no elected official is getting hazard pay.

In other business in the one-hour-and-36-minute meeting on Dec. 15, the board:

- Approved the supervisor's appointments of board of trustee members as liaisons to committees and commissions: Supervisor McNamara to the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Treasurer Sherry Budd to the Planning Commission and South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA), Clerk Leon Wright to the Election Commission and Recreation Committee, Trustee Reggie Miller to the Election Commission and September Days Endowment Committee, Trustee Sherry Frazier to the Water and Sewer Commission, Trustee Kevin Martin to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Election Commission, and Trustee Donald Boynton, Jr. to the Environmental Commission;

- Gave a fond farewell to Fire Chief Amy Brow who is retiring after four years on the job. Incoming Fire Chief David McNally virtually presented an engraved award to her. Supervisor McNamara said Brow, "brought a new level of training and professionalism to the fire department." He said it seemed like a revolving door for fire fighters at first and, "We went through a lot of people" but it was backed by the union and she set a very high standard and "forced them to live up to it." McNamara said Brow was the best fire chief they ever had. Public Safety Director Greg Laurain said Brow has a strong work ethic and, among other things, they were able to get six on-call fire fighters promoted to full time, "which I thought we'd never get." Police Chief Jason Wright said Brow has been a good friend and he is sorry to see her go. After more heartfelt comments by the board, Brow tearfully responded: "Life has a strange way of working out and it's time for me to retire";

- Heard Matt Best, director of public services, give a presentation with artistic renditions of what the French Landing Park will look like after its many upgrades. Trustee Miller said she wished Director Best had given the board information on the park plans to review before making his presentation because board members might have other ideas to add. "You're

100% right," McNamara said to Miller. "We have not approved any of these plans. It should have been in your packet and it will be brought back to you before we go out for bids." He said he and Best have been very busy and at the first of the year they will be even more busy with plans for a recreation center. Best's presentation of the Master Plan for French Landing Park by landscape architect Russell Design included the first phase of removing brush and vines and poison ivy and trees, along with the decayed play structure that will not be replaced. Then came announcement of an extensive boardwalk that goes out into the lake; a kayak/canoe launch; cement walkways and parking areas; a 52' square, 30' high unique tensile structure that is like a tent; an irrigation system from the lake for the grass; fixed seating with a

bar top along the lake, and other items. "It is an eyesore," McNamara said of French Landing Park. "It's gotta be fixed";

- Heard Trustee Martin ask for an update on the Huron River Drive bridge and Miller reported that Wayne County Commissioner Al Haidous told her they plan on opening the week of Christmas. McNamara was asked if he got the bridge expanded to allow for the Iron Belle Trail to cross over the south side of the bridge and McNamara said he didn't. He said the new bridge has a "small" six-foot walkway on the north side of the bridge. He said once he learned how much bridge superstructure would have to be changed, at great expense, he stopped asking them. He said if you walk under the bridge you can see what he's talking about;

- Heard Treasurer Budd say her office

(continued on page 9)



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VBT

(continued from page 8)

will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 30 for those who wish to pay their property taxes. She said her office will be the only one open at township hall and someone will greet visitors at the door. The township offices otherwise are closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 3;

• Heard Clerk Wright encourage the board and the public to wear masks and wash their hands. He told of how surprised he was to see three or four people walking around without masks at Meijer recently, along with a tall, mask-less customer who talked over the plastic barrier intended to protect the cashier. As to the vaccine, Wright said the right thing to do is step up and get the vaccine when it's available. He said the health-care workers are rolling up their sleeves to get the shots and he intends to be first in line when he is able to get it. He said he does not trust the virus, and has much more trust in the vaccine. He encouraged people to research information on the vaccines. He said his relatives have lost their lives to the virus and a young lady has been in a coma for six months;

• Heard Supervisor McNamara read a letter from 34th District Court Judge David Parrott as Judge Parrott's "judicial career comes to a close." Judge Parrott has lived in VBT for more than 30 years and has been active on township commissions and committees. He said he isn't going anywhere and would be glad to help the township in any way possible; and

• Heard Clerk Wright read a letter from a resident who praised his department for putting on a good election and taking time to answer questions promptly from township residents. He also announced in this year's Coats for School Kids he was able to get donations to be able to give coats to kids in 15 families, plus a \$250 gift certificate for each family. He also accepted 400-500 toys and games for children 2-8 years, which he distributed free on Dec. 17 in front of township hall.

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Tri-community government offices closed until Jan. 4

Belleville City Clerk/Treasurer Verna Chapman said the administrative offices at City Hall are closed for the holidays and will reopen at 9 a.m., Monday, Jan. 4.

City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz announced that someone will be in the office on Jan. 1 to accept any applications for the marijuana industry, since that is the deadline.

She also said she will be in the office on Dec. 28, 29, and 31, if residents want to pay their property taxes.

Sumpter Township

Sumpter Township offices are closed for the holidays and will reopen Monday, Jan. 4. The treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 29, and Thursday, Dec. 31, for property tax payments. Other payments can be dropped in the drop-box in the wall of township hall, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope if a receipt is required.

The Sumpter Township Senior Center is closed until further notice because of COVID-19, but the commodities program continues. For more information call Senior Coordinator Maryann Watson at (734) 461-9373.

Van Buren Township

Van Buren Township offices are closed and will reopen Jan. 4 at 7:30 a.m. for online and phone business only. In-person business hours will resume at 10 a.m. Jan. 4 and run 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The treasurer's office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 30, for property tax payments or any other payments residents would like to make, per the state's General Property Tax Act. The office will still be checking the outside drop box and will be able to do business over the phone. Call (734) 699-8903.

Police/Fire

The police and fire departments in the City of Belleville, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, and all other communities everywhere, continue to serve 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



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Photo by Reg Ion

The Romulus Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9568 has merged with the Dearborn Heights VFW Post 78 and now has been renamed the Pvt. James D. Donovan/Romulus Post 78. On Dec. 15 the posts merged and now the Romulus Post is considered the oldest post in Michigan and now has a total of about 240 members. The Dearborn Heights Post presented a check for \$60,000 to the Romulus Post at the merging ceremony, where they elected officers until the regular general election in April. From left are an unidentified member of the former Romulus Post, Quartermaster Bob Williams, and Commander John Barrett. Other officers elected were Sr. Vice Commander Ben Farmer, Jr. Vice commander John Stough, Chaplin Dave Bell, and Trustees Johnny Rese, Ron Allen, and Ken. The post is located at 39270 W. Huron River Dr., Romulus.



Photo courtesy of Dee Crowe

Some of the Belleville Breakfast Club Striders who regularly run or walk in Lower Huron Metropark did something special on Sunday, Dec. 6. They made a roaring fire and gathered to sip coffee and eat breakfast.

"If we lose freedom here, there is no place to escape to. This is the last stand on Earth."

— Ronald Reagan

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Sumpter Township resident arraigned on felony assault charges

According to a news release from Sumpter Township Police, Dajon Donte Lewis, 18, of Sumpter Township, was arraigned Dec. 25 at 34th District Court on the following charges:

- One count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder;
- One count of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault); and
- Two counts of felony firearm.

Lewis is being held in the Wayne County Jail on \$100,000 cash or surety bond and his probable cause conference is set for Jan. 6 before Judge Tina Brooks Green.

He is to have no contact with the victim or the home on Edgewood Drive where the shooting occurred.

The charges brought against Lewis result from a home invasion on Dec. 14 on Edgewood Drive, in the Rawsonville Woods mobile home community on Rawsonville Road. Police said during the incident, the defendant produced a handgun and a struggle ensued which resulted in a 22-year-old resident of the home being

shot through the leg.

The defendant fled the location but was located and taken into custody in the Ypsilanti area by the Michigan State Police Fugitive Team.

The Sumpter news release said, "We thank them for their hard work and assistance in this case."

This was not a random crime and the defendant and the victim are acquaintances, the news release said.

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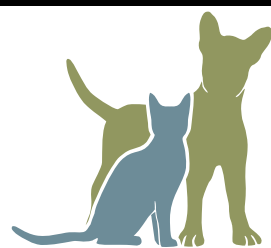
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Here's the latest from the Michigan High School Athletic Association concerning the resumption of the fall football playoffs for Belleville. Under the latest guidelines and emergency orders from the state, football teams began two days of outdoor, non-contact conditioning and drills on Monday, Dec. 28, in advance of the first round of virus testing slated for Wednesday, Dec.

30, as ordered by the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services rapid testing pilot program. Schools will test players, coaches, and other team personnel with full-contact practice then allowed after the first round of negative results. The testing program will utilize BinaxNOW antigen tests that produce results within 15 minutes. For football, the regional finals featuring Cass Tech and Belleville at BHS will take place on Saturday, Jan. 9, with the semifinals scheduled for Jan. 16, and the state finals the weekend of Jan. 22-23. Let's hope we can wrap the season up this time around. If the MDHHS's current epidemic order, which paused activity Nov. 18 is set to expire on Jan. 15, and if restrictions on non-contact sports are lifted, then volleyball and swimming and diving could practice and compete at that time under the same rapid testing program that football is following. The state playoffs and finals in those other sports have yet to complete their post seasons. Stay tuned and go, Tigers!

Well, here's to better days to come in this somewhat, crazy, upside-down world around us. Since this pandemic began, we've added the sentiment "be safe" to everyday greetings with each other and sayings like "celebrate responsibly" takes on additional meanings, as well. We'll get through it. Thank you to all the advertisers for running your ads with us over the past year and we're here to help in any way we can. Whenever we get calls from readers looking for a handyman, a plumber, painter, tree trimmer, etc. we gladly give out numbers from our advertising base and sometimes we hear feedback, which brings it back around full circle. We can customize your current ad with us or create something brand new for you if you'd like. Are you a business owner and new to this paper? Give us a try in 2021. I can send you our ad rates by email, fax, or answer your questions safely by phone. I can be reached at sportzriter@aol.com or by calling (734) 699 9020. If you can't find

one of the 7,000 *Independents* printed each week, you can read the paper in its entirety in a PDF download at our website at www.bellevilleareaindependent.com. Happy New Year!

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020. There is no cost to be in this column.

Court Watching:

2018 case of gunman outside Egan's Pub set for Feb. 25 court session

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The case of Scott William-Samuel Settles, 45, of Belleville, continues to wend its way through the Wayne County Circuit Court. Settles was charged with carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent, weapons-felony firearm, gun possession while intoxicated and brandishing a firearm in public on Dec. 18, 2018 outside of Egan's Pub in Belleville.

He is free after posting \$10,000/10% bond. Originally, his retained defense attorney was Michael Vincent. Now the attorney is listed as Leslie E. Posner.

A jury trial, originally set for Oct. 23, 2019, was canceled at the request of the defense. A competency hearing for Miranda Rights was held in July 2020. Currently, a pretrial session is set for Feb. 25, 2021.

Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 3)

18 years on the bench. Judge Parrott had been involved in numerous community projects and Judge Parrott said if there is anything he can do for Sumpter, he would be glad to do it. Trustee Morgan gave a thank you to Judge Parrott and the generous things he has done for the community and suggested a round of applause and board members applauded;

• Heard Trustee Morgan say she hopes the board can come together in the new year and, "Any animosity towards me can be put aside before we leave tonight";

• Heard Trustee Matt Oddy congratulate the board on its first virtual meeting and recognized that Judge Parrott's replacement Lisa Martin has been in the audience of that night's virtual meeting. "We hopefully will have her working down in Sumpter Township as we did with Judge Parrott," Trustee Oddy said; and

• Heard township attorney Young say Judge Parrott has been on the bench many years and, "Dave Parrott is one of the smartest judges I've served in front of. And, welcome to Judge Martin."

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VBT, Belleville, Sumpter alert residents to DTE tree trimming for 2021

DTE will be notifying residents in certain areas of Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township and, the City of Belleville via a phone call and a letter explaining that tree trimming will begin in their area in 2021.

The announcement was made in a news release from VBT on Dec. 14 and a notice from the City of Belleville on Dec. 15. Sumpter Township has posted a DTE tree trimming map for 2021 on its website at <https://sumptertwp.org> , as has Belleville on its website at <https://bellevilleonthelake.com> .

To view a map of the tree trimming area in Van Buren Township and other documents, visit: <https://vanburen-mi.org/dte-tree-trimming-scheduled-for-2021-in-vbt/>.

“Since the summer we’ve been working diligently with DTE to limit the outages in our community,” said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara. “They’ve heard our plea and will begin trimming trees in the problematic areas of the township.”

The first step in the tree-trimming process is for DTE to plan the work. If a resident is not at home when DTE is evaluating the resident’s property (“planning the work”), DTE will leave a door hanger with contact information for the property owner.

“The best way we can help DTE with this project is to allow them on our property, when requested, for them to reach the trees that need to be removed,” McNamara said. “Other than that, DTE has told us that the service is quick and residents will not need to do anything else.”

For more information or to view the sample letter and door hangers visit www.vanburen-mi.org or see the DTE website at dteenergy.com/treecare .

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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2000 CHRYSLER LHS. 4-door, full power. Very clean car. No rust. Private owner.. (734) 695-0819 12/31

2014 JEEP PATRIOT. Economical 4-speed. Sorry, no air. Immaculate inside & out. New tires. Private owner. (734) 695-0819 12/31

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

NEW & USED HOMES in Belleville/Canton area. Family Communities: Holiday West (734) 461-9797 & Holiday Estates (734) 495-0500. Senior Community: Royal Holiday (734) 455-2666 12/31

LOST

BLACK CAT in the area of Family Dollar & RR tracks on Sumpter road. Call (734) 697-2182 12/31

FOR RENT

3-ROOM OFFICE SPACE on Main Street. Call (734) 355-5464 12/31

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– Ronald Reagan

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WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez’s 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

CASH PAID FOR Sports Cards and Comic Books. 50s, 60s, 70s. Private collector can come to you when it is safe to do so. (734) 697-3546 12/31

HELP WANTED

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

“I’d kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.”
– Steven Wright

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Marijuana

(continued from page 1)

be six feet at first or smaller at first.

"If you envision the wall, you have to come up with some means of watering the bushes," Renaud said. "Now you see a bunch of rusted cars."

When there was a question on the VoTech property on Sumpter Road owned by the Van Buren Public Schools' district, Chairman Jones said the property is not currently being used as a school and so they are not requiring a 1,000-foot setback from that property.

He said the overlay map is based on what is currently in place and anything that would happen in the future is not addressed.

"If another school opened, those

businesses in place would be allowed to continue as non-conforming uses," said Jones, who works for the school district.

Councilman Ken Voigt said the overlay setbacks on the map refer to existing schools.

Matthew McLean, who has asked for the overlay map to include his business on East Huron River Drive, the former Cocoa Beach tanning salon, said he graduated from the VoTech facility.

"That's where I learned to change a tire," McLean said, adding people would like the facility to reopen. He asked what would happen if a train came and blocked the track and police couldn't get there for an emergency. "Who would police it?" he asked.

McLean said everyone knows Sumpter Township has been growing marijuana for a while.

"This is my only chance to try to get in the overlay," he said. "My entrances face the warehouse next door ... and I'm right down the street from the police station... This is my only chance to say I would like to be in the overlay."

Chairman Jones thanked him for his comments.

Sam Pernick said he is the main organizer of Jobs for Belleville which was behind the marijuana facility ordinance approved by voters.

"If it was up to us, there would be no limitations," Pernick said of the zoning amendments. "But, it's your prerogative."

He said the larger plan seemed to have a higher argument to keep facilities off Savage Road and to keep everything in one area, so one area could be patrolled.

Pernick said there is feedback for not having it on Savage Road and he requested they take that portion off as a security issue.

His second question was to seek clarity on the application process. He said many of the items required in this ordinance are not required in the licensing ordinance passed by voters. He was concerned about the insurance provision.

He asked them to consider those who get licenses having to acquire insurance, not having it in advance. This could be applied

to a number of items in the application, he said.

Pernick suggested giving those getting licenses to have 35 or 45 days to supply the insurance. And, he had "designated consumption" questions.

"There was confusion on our side," Jones said, noting the planner included microbusinesses for where consumption would be and they are cleaning up the language, including timelines on approval from the planning commission and provisional licenses from the city.

Pernick said Savage Road property is not suitable because of a security perspective and from a business perspective they would like everyone in the same area, rather than one drawing off business to another area.

City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz said the city clerk and police chief agreed that Savage Road should be included in part of the overlay district since it is south of the railroad. A wall and screening would have to take place, she said, repeating the police chief is supportive of this. Chief Dave Robinson was not at the meeting.

Chuck Lauber said he was present on behalf of Scott Jones and Bill Osier, who couldn't attend because of a death in the family.

He said the former Glass Ranch at 149 South St. currently is outside the overlay district. He said Jones and Osier would be managers of the property and he asked if there was a possibility of getting it inside the overlay district.

"I know it is north of the railroad," Lauber said, adding if the overlay is changed it could result in added investment in the City of Belleville.

Jones said they could apply for a variance at a later time if the property is not included in the overlay. He said McLean could do that, too. There is a process to get that changed.

"Does that exclude them from applying now?" Lauber asked.

"They could apply for a temporary license and then go for a variance," Jones said. "The city has to go through the process to apply for a license."

City Manager Kobylarz said they would

have to meet the zoning requirements. She said they could apply later for a variance if the planning commission doesn't include the property in the overlay.

Jones said they would have to get a variance on the property first and then apply for the license.

Kobylarz said they only can apply through Jan. 31 and the ordinance is available online. She said the date was established by the Jobs for Belleville ordinance. She said the deadline is Jan. 1.

"If I applied for a license and it doesn't meet the proposed zoning" would it work? Lauber asked. "They have an application to submit in the next 48 hours."

Bahm said the process would be to seek a use variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. It requires two-thirds of the ZBA to approve. She said it's a big challenge. They have to prove the property can't be used for anything else.

"It would be extremely contrary to what the city is planning at this time," Bahm said, adding that zoning changes all the time. "But that is not a good plan for moving forward right now ... Could be in years to come," she said.

Scott Dianda asked if it was possible to put in an application for a license in that area without a property designated?

Jones asked if they have to have a property identified.

Kobylarz said the application asks for an address and if the property is leased or owned.

"We do not say you must have a lease or own it ... Follow the application," Kobylarz said.

In further discussion, Councilwoman Kelly Bates said she thought consideration should be given to Mr. McLean.

"It would serve the residents better if it is spread out a bit," she said of the overlay district.

The city council members were all present for the joint meeting. Absent from the planning commission were Becky Hasen and Henry Kurczewski.

Van Buren Township resident arraigned on felony assault charges

Kojuan Jamel Quiles, 46, of Van Buren Township, was virtually arraigned on Dec. 28 by 34th District Court Magistrate Alan Hindman on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), and domestic violence in Van Buren Township on Dec. 26.

Bond was set at \$10,000/10% and Quiles is to have no contact with the victim or with an address on Bog Road, where he lived.

A probable cause conference before Judge Tina Brooks Green was scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Jan. 6.

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

Attention Parents/Guardians and Former Students:

The Van Buren Public School District has determined that certain special education records that contain personal identifiable information about former students are no longer needed to provide educational services to those students. Specifically, the District no longer has a need to maintain certain special education records for students who graduated or dropped out of school prior to June 16, 1995.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, parents or adult former students may request the District destroy personally identifiable information when a school district no longer needs that information to provide educational services to the student. Under the Family Educational Right & Privacy Act, parents and adult former students have the right to inspect and review educational records. These records may be useful for purposes of college admissions or for obtaining public assistance benefits.

If a parent or adult former student would to inspect and review records, they may set an appointment to do so on or before February 1, 2021 by contacting

Angela Mercer
Email: amercer@vanburenschools.net
Phone: (734)697-1009

Please note that after February 1, 2021, unless the District has received a request to inspect and review records, it will destroy any or all special education records of students who either graduated or dropped out prior to June 14, 1995 as permitted by state and federal law. For more information email amercer@vanburenschools.net.

Karen Johnston
Director Student Services
karenjohnston@vanburenschools.net



City of Belleville Public Notice



POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021** at 12 PM., at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicles will be held:

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2001 FORD, TAURUS, VIN: 1FAHP53U61A187238
2004 SATURN, L300, VIN: 1G8JC54F44Y500073
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BY VERNA CHAPMAN, CITY CLERK

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— Ronald Reagan

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 175 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

Sunday, Dec. 20:
0112 – traffic stop, W. Huron River Dr./Elwell
0117 – assist other dept., Edgewood
0256 – suspicious person/vehicle, Landmark
0515 – suspicious activity report, Belleville Rd.
0536 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0639 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd.
1331 – disorderly, rest area
1332 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
Dr. / Denton Rd.
1353 – vehicle lockout, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1437 – disorderly, Belleville
1521 – property check, Laguna Dr.
1538 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1557 – domestic, Morton Taylor Rd.
1712 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1718 – property check, Dewitt Rd.
1926 – domestic, Rawsonville Rd.
1944 – family trouble, Brookside Dr.
2026 – unattended death, Richard Run Dr.
2334 – traffic stop, Elwell Rd./W. Huron River Dr.

Monday, Dec. 21:
0021 – assist fire dept., Water’s Edge Ln.
0023 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0113 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
0311 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0357 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
0751 – threat, Denton Rd.
0829 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.
0841 – lost property/child, Oak Ln.
0935 – assist other dept., Arthur St.
1057 – assist fire dept., Hamilton St.
1106 – welfare check, Water’s Edge Ln.
1207 – road hazard, N. I-94 Service Dr./Belleville
1208 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1220 – private property impound, Westlake
1238 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.
1257 – harassment call, McBride Ave.
1307 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1315 – disorderly, Ecorse Rd.
1349 – welfare check, Martz Rd.
1427 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse/Haggerty
1431 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. /
Denton Rd.
1458 – civil matter, Park Estates Dr.
1546 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1606 – property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1701 – shooting, W. Huron River Dr./Ormond Dr.
1705 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1717 – civil matter, Freedom Way
1730 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
1954 – neighbor trouble, birch Dr.
2104 – civil matter, Sonrisa St.
2121 – intrusion alarm, Sadie Ln.
2130 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. /
Sheldon Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 22:
0211 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
0213 – welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0423 – 911 welfare check, Stratford Dr.
0819 – assist citizen, Belleville/Yost
1015 – intrusion alarm, Riggs Rd.
1040 – larceny, Westlake Cir.
1145 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. /
Denton Rd.
1158 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1304 – private property impound, Haggerty Rd.
1352 – civil matter, Water’s Edge Ln.
1537 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1549 – vehicle lockout, Republic Dr.
1834 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bayshore Dr.
1840 – property damage accident, Bog Rd.
2003 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94
Service Dr.
2003 – found property/child, W. Huron River Dr.
2025 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
2101 – welfare check, Winchester St./Victoria St.
2128 – robbery, Victoria St.
2227 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 23:
0323 – suspicious person/vehicle, Assembly St.
0413 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bayshore Dr. /
Denton Rd.
0744 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Harbour
Club
0856 – suicidal person, Arthur St.

1012 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1012 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Denton
1208 – traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
1222 – abandoned auto, Stonebridge Ct.
1428 – traffic offense, W. Huron River Dr.
1451 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1551 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1644 – fraud, Denton Rd.
1655 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse Rd.
1859 – threat, Maurice Dr.
1906 – vehicle lockout, Rawsonville Rd.
2147 – assist fire dept., Maple Dr.
2226 – noise complaint, Filmore St.
2253 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
2303 – traffic stop, Denton Rd./Marina Cv.
2306 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2314 – harassment call, Denton Rd.

Thursday, Dec. 24:
0009 – traffic stop, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
0025 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Springwood Blvd
0059 – noise complaint, Westlake Cir.
0148 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0219 – traffic stop, Westlake
0328 – traffic stop, Archwood Apts.
0454 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hoeft Rd.
0458 – animal complaint, Oak Ln./N. I-94 Service
0543 – intrusion alarm, Lexington Ct.
0716 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr. /
Denton Rd.
0844 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
0945 – assist fire dept., Brandi Dr.
1022 – disorderly, Estate Dr.
1056 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1338 – assist other dept., Beck Rd.
1419 – civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1543 – follow-up by officer, Belleville Rd./Tyler
1544 – suspicious person/vehicle, Dalton Dr.
1620 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
1620 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1654 – intrusion alarm, Thornwood Dr.
1819 – property damage accident, Tyler/Haggerty
1835 – intrusion alarm, Thornwood Dr.
1946 – private property/property damage accident,
Belleville Rd.
1944 – mental subject, Andover Dr.
2011 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
2015 – welfare check, Belleville Rd.

2020 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sylvia Dr. /
Rawsonville Rd.
2022 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
2024 – personal injury accident, N. I-94 Service Dr.
/ Lighthouse Dr.
2025 – private property/property damage accident,
Belleville Rd.
2111 – felony assault, N. Ponderosa Trl.
2138 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bayshore Dr.
2216 – domestic, Parkwood
2244 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2307 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.

Friday, Dec. 25:
0044 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
0111 – fraud, Denton Rd.
0616 – intrusion alarm, Martz Rd.
0832 – intrusion alarm, Brookside Dr.
0953 – property damage accident, Denton/Ecorse
0955 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E.
Huron River Dr.
1216 – family trouble, Berkdale Dr.
1238 – assist fire dept., Village Green Ln.
1246 – traffic offense, Birch Dr.
1349 – motorist assist, Michigan Ave./Dellor St.
1350 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1652 – assist other dept., Clarence St.
1739 – assist other dept., E. I-94/N. Haggerty I-94
ramp E.

1742 – domestic, Lindsey Dr.
1752 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1809 – intrusion alarm, Rebecca Ct.
1818 – traffic offense, E. Cherry/N. Ponderosa Trl.
1836 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.
1922 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd.
1927 – personal injury accident, Belleville Rd.
2213 – mental subject, Tyler Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 26:
0050 – assist fire dept., Lighthouse Dr.
0151 – 911 welfare check, Cedarhurst Dr.
0724 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1009 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1108 – domestic, Bog Rd.
1141 – suspicious person/vehicle, Cambridge Ct.
1219 – breaking & entering, Parkwood
1243 – threat, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1255 – fraud, Farm Rd.

1321 – threat, Parkwood Dr.
1659 – domestic, Oak Ln.
1733 – traffic offense, Sheldon Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1754 – suicidal person, McBride Ave.
1754 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.
1811 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
1939 – sexual assault, Quirk Rd.
2016 – suspicious person/vehicle, Arcadia
2107 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2248 – suspicious activity report, Ironwood Dr.
2251 – welfare check, Hamilton St.

There were seven traffic stops on this week’s log,
none on the I-94 or I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 20:
0005 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
0014 – traffic offense, Main St./High St.
0015 – traffic stop, Second St./Main St.
0230 – traffic stop, South St./Henry St.
1059 – warrant arrest, Belleville Rd.
1834 – civil matter, Loza Ln.
1854 – trespassing, Carmell St.

Monday, Dec. 21:
0024 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
0038 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0118 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0302 – traffic stop, Industrial Park Dr./Sumpter Rd
0512 – traffic stop, Belleville Rd./Main St.
0829 – family trouble, Biggs Ave.
1152 – property damage accident, South St. /
Sumpter Rd.
1259 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
1505 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1612 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bay Pointe Dr.
2155 – traffic stop, South St./Wabash Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 22:
0153 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0438 – assist other dept., Carmell St.
1158 – juvenile complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
2054 – traffic stop, Biggs Ave./E. Huron River
2225 – traffic stop, First St./Main St.

Wednesday, Dec. 23:
0139 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Thornhill Ct.
2220 – domestic, Madelon St.
2234 – domestic, Carmell St.

Thursday, Dec. 24:
0926 – misc. complaint, Victorian Ln.
0954 – hospice death, Menlo Park Dr.
1128 – misc. complaint, E. Huron River Dr.
1433 – threat, N. Biggs Ave.

Friday, Dec. 25:
0448 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
1541 – intrusion alarm, Menlo Park Dr.
1645 – suicidal person, Clarence St.
2131 – traffic offense, E. Huron River Dr. / N.
Liberty St.

Saturday, Dec. 26:
0107 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
0215 – suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.
2119 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Loza Ln.
2128 – assist fire dept., Main St.
There were 11 traffic stops on this week’s log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 20:
0026 – personal injury accident, Willis Rd./Sharon
Ct.
0111 – suspicious circumstance, Edgewood Dr.
0145 – suspicious circumstance, Edgewood Dr.
0405 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0838 – found property, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.
0933 – follow-up investigation, 46000 bl. Wear Rd
1000 – misc. detail, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.
1037 – misc. detail, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
1144 – misc. detail, 18000 bl. Westcott Dr/
1207 – misc. detail, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1509 – property damage accident, Rustic Ln.
1702 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2129 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.

Monday, Dec. 21:
0006 – noise complaint, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.
0032 – traffic stop, Willis Rd./Sumpter Rd.
0151 – follow-up investigation, Hampshire Dr.

0959 – civil matter, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1328 – animal complaint, New Mexico St.
1445 – animal complaint, 6700 bl. Oakville Waltz
1607 – fire dept. assist, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1850 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 22:
0903 – family trouble, Wayside Dr.
1150 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
1356 – animal complaint, Martinsville Rd./Clay
1438 – death investigation, 17000 bl. Martha’s Ln.
1616 – suspicious person, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1731 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Martha’s
Ln.

1748 – follow-up investigation, Wayside Dr.
1853 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1934 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
2022 – property damage accident, Judd/Sherwood
2124 – follow-up investigation, out of township
2303 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.

Wednesday, Dec. 23:
0455 – misc. detail, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0521 – civil matter, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1028 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1048 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1257 – mental health call, Rustic Ln.
1436 – welfare check, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1439 – property damage accident, 19000 bl.
Sumpter Rd.
1450 – welfare check, Mulberry Dr.
1535 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1758 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2126 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2147 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 24:
0255 – civil matter, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
0619 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0720 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
0830 – welfare check, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0934 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1118 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1237 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1617 – civil matter, 9200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1902 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2325 – civil matter, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2350 – citizen assist, Rustic Ln.

Friday, Dec. 25:
1008 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
1325 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1413 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1613 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1718 – 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
2022 – 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Wear Rd.
2134 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.
2303 – mental health call, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 26:
1046 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
1051 – shots fired, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1223 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
1712 – suspicious circumstance, 47000 bl. Wear
1845 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2109 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
2206 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
2348 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.

Also on this week’s log were 66 patrol checks. There
were two traffic stops for the week.

COVID-19 death total in 48111 rises one to 47, positive tests at 1,751

The number of people who have died
from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code
area rose by one in the last week to 47 as of
Monday, Dec. 28.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in
48111 were 1,751 on Monday, Dec. 28, up
from 1,676 the previous Monday, Dec. 21.

On Monday, Dec. 28, the separate
numbers released by the Wayne County
Health Department for the tri-community
were: Van Buren Township, 1,156 positive
cases, 29 deaths; City of Belleville, 282
positive cases, 15 deaths; and Sumpter
Township 313 positive cases, 3 deaths.

“You have to be odd to be number one.”
— Dr. Seuss



Posing for a picture at a Dec. 9 outside ceremony were winners of the VFW Patriot's Pen contest and their families. Krysten Bradner of McBride Middle School won first place and stands at center holding her award. At left, is Lola A. Kennedy of Mc Bride Middle School who won second place. From left are Lola's grandfather George Kennedy and Lola's parents. Next to Krysten is her mother and to the right Cornell Anton, contest chairman Bob Krouse, and Commander John Blackstone. Krysten's essay will now go onto the next level of judging.



Micaya P. Cannon of Belleville High School is the winner of this year's Voice of Democracy contest put on by Belleville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434. With her are her parents. Last year Micaya won the local VFW Patriot's Pen contest and then ranked seventh in the state. Second place winner of this year's Voice of Democracy contest is Ngan D. Vo of Huron High School, who did not attend the Dec. 9 ceremony at the VFW Post. Contest chairman is Bob Krouse. Micaya's essay will now be entered in the next step in the national contest.

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A check for \$2,000 was presented by the St. Anthony Men's Club and St. Anthony parishioners to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4434 Commander John Blackstone, at right, at a special ceremony on Dec. 9. From left are Pete Pitzen, John Zaroff, and Leonard Szweda.



Photos by Reg Ion

During a Dec. 9 ceremony, a check for \$5,000 was presented by the members of former Veterans of Foreign Wars Donovan Post 78, Dearborn Heights, to Belleville VFW Post 4434 Commander John Blackstone, at right. Presenting the check is Donovan Post Commander John Stough. At left is Ray Lopez, state VFW representative, standing next to two other Donovan Post members. The Donovan Post has merged with Romulus VFW Post 9568, which now will take the Post 78 designation. Post 78 is considered the oldest VFW Post in the state.



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GIANT SIZE - EXTRA LARGE 3,900 Square Foot Feature Rich Brick Home with Large Cooks Kitchen, Living Room with Fireplace, Massive Open Lighted Family Room adjacent to a Big Indoor Pool Area with Cedar Surround Walls and Shower. Upgraded to Premium Metal Roof on 2 1/2 Acres with Large Workshop Barn that Includes Power, Heat and Upper Storage Area on Paved Street - Home needs updating and Sold 'As Is' \$300,000

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41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN

PRIME LOCATION. Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. New Carpet, New Bath, New Paint \$155,000

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TORREY 2.48 AC PERC & SURV \$39,000

VACANT RAWSONVILLE 2.6 AC \$95,000

JUDD 10 ACRES SUMPTER TWP \$80,000

00000 SUMPTER 243X687 3.63 AC \$40,000

COMMERCIAL CORNER OF ECORSE & WAYNE ROMULUS 4.27 ACRES \$350,000

WAYNE RD COM ZONE 1.48 AC \$149,000

SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000

25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$45,000

THREE 12+ ACRE PARCELS AT \$120,000 EACH CORNER WEAR AND HAGGERTY

VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000

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KARR RD 10 ACRES 661 FRONT \$100,000

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HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000

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